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A History of Circumcision.

History of Circumcision from the Earliest Times to the Present. By P. C. Remondino, M. D. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis, 1891. Pp. 346. Price, cloth \$1.25, paper 50 cts. net.

The rite of circumcision, from the time when it became the sign of the covenant with Abraham (Gen. 17) until it became the rock that divided the primitive Christian Church, was a conspicuous characteristic of the Jewish race. It is commonly admitted now that the custom was not original with them, it having previously prevailed in Arabia and perhaps in Egypt (as is set forth by Prof. T. K. Cheyne in art. *Encyc. Brit.* 9th ed.). It has since spread widely, being found at present among oriental and equatorial peoples generally. But the rite as observed by the Jews was predominantly religious and symbolic, as is seen from the Old Testament history. An interesting question in connection with the subject is, was there a hygienic element in the rite, perhaps underlying it? This is the belief and contention of Dr. Remondino, whose treatment of the matter is wholly scientific. He credits to the observance of this rite much of the hardiness, good health and longevity of the Jews; and indeed goes on from this to advise the general adoption of the custom to-day. The author's historical discussion and deductions are worthy of attention and consideration.

The Epistle to the Romans.

A Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans. By R. V. Foster, D. D. Nashville, Tenn.: Cumberland Presbyterian Publishing House. Pp. 414.

The design of the author was to produce a popular book upon this greatest of the epistles, which might be helpful to church members generally. The commentary is upon the basis of the Authorized Version, and the treatment is thoroughly evangelical. The introduction covers sixty-four pages, and presents a biography of the apostle Paul; a consideration of the date, occasion, style and peculiarities of the writing; and the teachings of the epistle. The commentary is not put forth in a pretentious way, as of course it does not rank with the great works on Romans, but it is a conscientious, scholarly, inspiring exposition.

Bible Marking.

How to Mark Your Bible. By Mrs. Stephen Menzies, prefatory note by D. L. Moody. New York and Chicago: F. H. Revell Co., 1891. Pp. 175. Price, 75 cts.

Assuming what many would be slow to admit, that Bible marking is a desirable and useful thing, it is manifest that some regular method should be adopted, so that the page may look neat, the markings be as little distracting as possible, and the purposes of the marking be fully realized. Such a scheme is described by our author—an intelligent, orderly, practical scheme. An illustration is given of a Bible page with the various underscorings, "railways," references and marginal notes. Then the bulk of the book is a mass of such markings to be introduced into the reader's Bible. If you *must* mark your Bible, then study carefully this method—it is doubtful whether you will find a better one.